

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O.11652: NA
TAGS: CSCE ECON PEPR PGOV PINT HU XG
SUBJECT: NEW YORK TIMES INTERVIEW WITH JANOS KADAR

BEGIN SUMMARY: JANOS KADAR RESTATED THE BASIC ELEMENTS OF
HUNGARIAN FOREIGN POLICY (AND TO A LESSER EXTENT DOMESTIC
POLICY) IN AN INTERVIEW WITH JOHN OAKES OF THE NEW YORK
TIMES. OUR THOUGHTS ON THE MOST IMPORTANT POINTS FOLLOW.
END SUMMARY.

1. FOREIGN POLICY: IN HIS REMARKS ON FOREIGN POLICY, WHICH
COMPRISED THE MAJOR PORTION OF THE INTERVIEW, KADAR:
-- FORCIBLY REITERATED HUNGARY'S INTEREST IN THE CONTINUANCE
OF DETENTE. HIS REMARKS ON SUCH THINGS AS THE ARMS RACE WERE
DICECTED TOWARD THE WEST, BUT HE DID NOT EXEMPT THE EAST FROM
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THEM. HE ALSO STRESSED BREZHNEV'S AND THE SOVIET
LEADERSHIP'S DESIRE FOR DETENTE.
-- GAVE AN OPEN INVITATION FOR IMPROVEMENT IN RELA-
TIONS WITH THE U.S. KADAR SAID HE CONSIDERED RELA-
TIONS WITH THE U.S. TO BE "BASICALLY SETTLED" (A
NEW FORMULATION) AND SAID HE WAS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT
THE FUTURE (EXCHANGES AND TRADE).

-- ON EUROCOMMUNISM, HE INDICATED A STRONG DESIRE FOR COOPERATION AND AN AVERSION TO CONFRONTATION, BASING HIS POSITION ON THE DOCUMENT AGREED ON AT THE BERLIN CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES.

-- IN A LIKE MANNER AGAIN USED THE HELSINKI PRINCIPLES AS A FRAMEWORK FOR EAST-WEST COOPERATION ON THE GOVERNMENTAL LEVEL.

-- DECLARED HIS SOLIDARITY WITH THE SOVIET UNION. HE CONTINUED TO SUPPORT FAITHFULLY SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY OUTSIDE OF EUROPE. HOWEVER, HE UNDERLINED AS HE HAS IN THE PAST PRIVATELY WITH US, THAT HUNGARY "IS A SOVEREIGN, INDEPENDENT COUNTRY," AND IN CARRYING OUT ITS FOREIGN POLICY CONSIDERS COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER WESTERN NATIONS "AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT."

2. ON DOMESTIC AFFAIRS, KADAR ONCE AGAIN:

-- INDICATED THAT A SERIOUS PRICE REFORM IS IN THE OFFING, WHICH WILL BE COUPLED WITH A REDUCTION IN GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES AND A MOVE TOWARD RATIONALIZATION OF PRODUCTION.

-- EMPHASIZED THE DETERMINING ROLE THAT HUNGARY'S RELIANCE ON FOREIGN TRADE WILL PLACE ON ECONOMIC POLICY.

-- DENIED ANY POLITICAL OR ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE IN RECENT SHIFTS IN PARTY LEADERSHIP. ON THIS POINT, HE WAS LESS THAN FRANK.

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3. THE INTERVIEW WAS ARRANGED THROUGH THE EMBASSY AND WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR LATE APRIL. IT HAD TO BE POSTPONED ONE MONTH AT OAKES' REQUEST. THE FACT THAT IT TOOK PLACE (KADAR'S FIRST INTERVIEW WITH AN AMERICAN CORRESPONDENT IN SEVEN YEARS) IS INDICATIVE OF KADAR'S INTEREST IN RELATIONS WITH THE U.S.

4. KADAR'S PREPARED RESPONSES TO THE QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY OAKES HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED WIDELY IN HUNGARY. KADAR'S EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS TO OAKES'S QUESTIONS HAVE NOT BEEN CIRCULATED DOMESTICALLY.

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